

In accordance with the present amendments, new claims 18 through 21 are presented in place of original claims 2 through 5, which latter claims have been canceled. The new claims correspond generally to the claims which they replace.

No new matter has been introduced into this application as a result of the present amendments.

Turning to the requirement for restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 set forth in the February 28, 2002 Official Action, applicants hereby elect, without traverse, the Group II invention, namely, claims 2 through 5 (now claims 18 through 21) which are drawn to a method for determining the invasive and metastatic capacity of an epithelial tumour.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuing applications, as provided under 35 U.S.C. §120, on the subject matter of any claims ultimately held withdrawn from consideration in the present application.

It is noted in passing that in the Declaration filed October 18, 2001 in this application, each of the applicants' signatures is undated. Applicants wish to state for the record that the aforementioned declaration was signed by each of them on September 18, 2001.

It is further noted in this regard that under current USPTO practice, a newly executed Oath or Declaration is not required where the date of execution has been omitted, as indicated in §602.05 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure.

Early and favorable action on the merits of this application is respectfully requested.

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